Availability of Diamonds in Garhchirauli and Chanderpur

†2834. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proof of availability of large quantity of diamonds under the land in Garhchirauli and Chanderpur districts of Vidaharb region has been found in the survey conducted by the Geological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether Government are aware of the illegal mining work going on in the said region;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same; and

(e) whether the Government are considering commercial mining of diamonds in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out detailed search of Kimberlite, Lamproite bodies by way of indicator mineral surveys in Chanderpur and Garhchirauli districts of Vidaharb region. Incidence of small diamond grain, weighing 0.15 carat in Wairagarh area, Garhchirauli district has been discovered from the matrix of a conglomerate.

(c) and (d) Central Government have no information on illegal mining. Responsibility for checking illegal mining, if any rests with the State Governments. Several provisions exist in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to curb illicit mining.

(e) In view of (a) and (b) above question does not arise.

Closure of loss making HZL units

2835. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Zinc Ltd. has decided to close its loss making units;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.